

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8535

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 11881

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, PINR, AO, CU, CG, BE

SUBJECT: ANGOLA: FNLA'S ROBERTO HOLDEN VISITS BELGIUM ILLEGALLY

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY'S AFRICAN AFFAIRS OFFICERS (LE BRUN AND VERKAMMEN) SHOWED US XEROXED COPY OF ZAIRIAN DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT- ISSUED TO "TURANTE" AND CONTAINING BELGIAN, FRG, AND FRENCH DIPLOMATIC VISAS - THAT FNLA LEADER ROBERTO HOLDEN USED TO ENTER BELGIUM ILLEGALLY AND HOLD MEETINGS AND PRESS CONFERENCE HERE THE WEEKEND OCTOBER 29-NOVEMBER 1. VERKAMMEN SAID ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTRY UPSET WITH INTERNATIONAL PRESS COVERAGE OF HOLDEN VISIT AND CALLED IN BELGIAN CHARGE DE SMAELE FOR CLARIFICATION. DE SMAELE GAVE THEM DIPLOMATIC NOTE CONTAINING FOLLOWING BELGIAN POSITION ON HELDEN VISIT:
- HOLDEN ENTERED BELGIUM ILLEGALLY USING
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FALSE DOCUMENTATION;

- HOLDEN, WHILE IN BELGIUM, AGAIN VIOLATED
BELGIAN LAW BY ATTACKING A FRIENDLY GOVERNMENT.

2. VERKAMMEN NOTED THAT THIS EXPLANATION APPEARED TO
SATISFY ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT, WHICH MIGHT HAVE RECALLED
A FEW SHORT YEARS AGO BELGIUM HAD ADMITTED AGOSTINHO NETO
AND HAD TO DEFEND THAT OPEN DOOR POLICY AGAINST THE
CRITICISMS OF THE THEN PORTUGUESE GOVERNMENT. HE ADDED
THAT HAD ROBERTO HOLDEN TRIED TO ENTER BELGIUM LEGALLY,
HE MIGHT WELL HAVE BEEN ADMITTED, WITH THE USUAL CAVEATS
ABOUT NOT ENGAGING IN POLITICAL ACTIVITIES.

3. HOLDEN, IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE, ATTACKED MASSIVE
CUBAN, SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN PRESENCE IN ANGOLA
(30,000 CUBAN TROOPS, 1,000 BULGARIAN AGRICULTURAL
EXPERTS, 1,200 SOVIETS, AND 2,000 EAST GERMANS) AND
VOWED THAT FNLA WOULD CONTINUE TO FIGHT. HE TOLD PRESS
THAT HE HAD MET WITH SENEGALESE PRESIDENT SENGHOR DURING
LATTER'S PRIVATE VISIT HERE, BUT VERKAMMEN DENIED THAT
ANY SUCH ENCOUNTER HAD TAKEN PLACE. FIRESTONE

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